Dustin Fichmann

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Education

Columbia University *New York, NY, USA*
M.A. in Economics *Sept. 2021 – Dec. 2022*

- GPA: 3.81/4.00
- Relevant Coursework: Mathematical Methods for Economists (Measure Theory, Real Analysis, Dynamic Optimization); Microeconomic Analysis I & II; Macroeconomic Analysis I & II; Econometrics I & II; Advanced Econometrics.

Bates College *Lewiston, ME, USA*
B.A. in Mathematics and Economics (double major) *Aug. 2017 – May 2021*

- GPA: 3.98/4.00; Major GPA: 4.00/4.00; Summa Cum Laude
- Relevant Coursework: Real Analysis; Linear Algebra; Probability; Complex Analysis; Abstract Algebra; Multivariable Calculus; Statistics; Big Data and Machine Learning; Urban Economics.

University of Oxford *Oxford, UK*
Visiting Student, Economics *Oct. 2019 – Jun. 2020*

- Relevant Coursework: Behavioral Economics; Labor Economics.

Honors and Fellowships

2021	**Summa Cum Laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, Dean's List**, Bates College
2018	**Dana Scholar Award — Academic performance and leadership potential**, Bates College
2017–2021	**Shelby Davis Scholarship — $10,000 per year for 4 years**, Bates College / UWC
2020	**Book Prizes for Excellence in Behavioral and Labor Economics**, University of Oxford

Research Experience

Harvard University, Department of Economics *Cambridge, MA*
Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Behavioral-Economic Theory (with Prof. Matthew Rabin) *Jul. 2025 – Present*

- Drew out the theoretical implications of recent models that attempt to improve the psychological realism of economics.
- Expectations-Based Reference Dependence (EBRD): Worked out the behavior of an agent with EBRD when facing price and health uncertainty over finite and infinite periods. Created visualizations to showcase how the optimal plan can be inconsistent and how to find the optimal consistent plan in complex environments.
- Belief Updating: Created a comprehensive list of features for updating models (Confirmation Bias, Base-Rate Neglect, Law of Small Numbers, Naive Herding). Formalized mathematical definitions of features.

Harvard Business School *Boston, MA*
Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Behavioral Economics (with Prof. Thomas Graeber) *Jun. 2024 – Jul. 2025*

- Designed and implemented weekly Prolific experiments.
- Assisted with the following research projects:
  - Graeber, Thomas; Roth, Christopher; and Sammon, Marco. "Coarse Categories in a Complex World." *CESifo Working Paper No. 12032*, July 2025.
  - Gabaix, Xavier and Thomas Graeber. "The Complexity of Economic Decisions." *NBER Working Paper No. 33109*, November 2024.
  - Ongoing project with Benjamin Enke on cognitive reference dependence that analyzes when people exhibit comparison versus contrast effects.
  - Ongoing project using LLM agents to estimate conversion metrics for digital assets.

World Data Lab *Vienna, Austria*
DATA SCIENTIST (WITH DR HOMI KHARAS) *Aug. 2023 – May 2024*
- Developed expenditure and SDG performance models using machine learning techniques.

Columbia University – Program for Economic Research *New York, NY*
RESEARCH ASSISTANT (WITH PROFS. BRENDAN O'FLAHERTY) *May 2022 – Apr. 2023*
- Applied causal forest algorithm to analyze racial disparities in police killings of civilians.

Teaching

2024 – 2025	**Harvard Business School - MBA Negotiations (Prof. Thomas Graeber)**, Assisted with Teaching	*Boston, MA*
2018 – 2019	**Bates College - Mathematics and Statistics Workshop**, Tutor for Calculus II, Linear Algebra, Multivariable Calculus	*Lewiston, ME*
2018	**Lewiston High School**, Math Tutor	*Lewiston, ME*

Presentations

2022	**Research Paper Presentation - Columbia University**, Perceptions of Crime and the Gender Commuting Gap	*New York, NY*
2021	**Mount David Summit - Bates College**, Collision Algorithms and Pollard's ρ Method	*Lewiston, ME*

Independent Research Projects

Columbia University *New York, NY*
MASTER'S THESIS: PERCEPTIONS OF CRIME AND THE GENDER COMMUTING GAP *Sept. 2022 – Dec. 2022*
- Advisor: Prof. Brendan O'Flaherty.
- Research Question: What is the relationship between people's perception of crime and the gender commuting time gap?
- Data: Custom dataset matching ACS Public Use Microdata Sample by city with Uniform Crime Reporting data from the FBI.
- Method: Heckman selection and probit models.

Bates College *Lewiston, ME*
SENIOR THESIS: WHAT ROLE DOES INCOME PLAY IN URBAN HOUSING CHOICES? *Jan. 2021 – May 2021*
- Advisor: Prof. Nathan Tefft.
- Research Question: Do higher income households have longer commutes when fixing commuting method?
- Data: ACS Public Use Microdata Sample.
- Method: Fixed-effect model.

References

Professor Matthew Rabin — Harvard University Department of Economics and Business School. Email: matthewrabin@fas.harvard.edu

Professor Thomas Graeber — University of Zurich; Formerly Harvard Business School (2020-2025). Email: thomas.graeber@econ.uzh.ch

Professor Brendan O'Flaherty — Columbia University. Email: bo2@columbia.edu

Languages & Skills

Languages: English (native); German (native); Spanish (intermediate); French, Italian & Mandarin (elementary).

Programming: Stata; R; Python; Matlab; JavaScript; HTML; LaTeX; Qualtrics.